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with the same scrupulous regard for a veracious presentation of his author's work as has attended previous issues of the series, and the result is a rendering of the great Frenchman's economic doctrines such as leaves little to be desired either in reliability or in accessibility. Not the least commendable feature of this slender volume is the excerpts from the correspondence between Turgot and Hume, published in an appendix. Meager as they seem, these excerpts throw a light upon Turgot's position and upon his relation to the Physiocratic school which will help students toward an apprehension of the author's true place in the development of economic doctrine.

V.

The Elective Franchise in the United States. By DUNCAN C. McMILLAN. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1898. 12mo. pp. 202.

THIS book, aside from the preface and the appendix, is a reprint of the edition of 1878. The author has proposed a new plan for the election of officers, with a view to offering a remedy for the political evils of the present. His method is that of first presenting what he conceives to be the theoretical basis of parties and the nature of political issues. He then portrays the political evils that he would correct, and follows this with his plan as a remedy.

The evils, as he sees them, grow largely out of independent party organization. He would supplant the present system of elections by a plan which "would tend to destroy party prejudices and eliminate party lines." There would be no nominations by conventions or caucuses as such. The people would cast their votes at a regular election for anyone they chose to, designating the candidates as belonging to the "first canvass" or the "second canvass," and then, in case no candidate received a majority of all votes cast, a second election would be held between the two candidates having the highest number of votes in each "canvass." The plan, if adopted, would result, no doubt, in making the first election a primary, giving it the benefit of being conducted under regular election laws, and, also, would provide a system whereby those elected would always receive a majority of the votes cast.

There are many interesting suggestions made, but it may well be doubted whether the adoption of a plan of elections in just this form would add to the security of popular institutions. In the first place,

the author's premise that party organization should be discouraged may be doubted. In popular government it is necessary to have organs for the purpose of expressing the popular will on issues touching the general welfare, and for impressing the will thus expressed on the policy of government. To this end parties have served a useful purpose. In France and Belgium there are no clear-cut divisions in controlling parties. Their political organizations are so many petty factions. These nations have suffered greatly on this account, while the evils attending the political activities have been quite as great as in England, where party lines are most clearly drawn. In the second place, the question might be raised as to whether the plan, in the form proposed, would not be made an implement in the hands of a "ring;" whether in this aspect it would accomplish the desired end. For example, it proposes to have presidential candidates nominated by the state legislatures by resolution, thus hoping to avoid the evils attending political conventions.

F. A. CLEVELAND.

Township and Borough. By FREDERIC WILLIAM MAITLAND. Cambridge: At the University Press, 1898. 8vo. pp. ix+220.

TO the student of law or political science, a work needs no further commendation than the name of Professor Maitland carries with it. The work in hand is of value to the economist, as it helps to give authentic historic bearing to the economic institutions found in township and borough. Here the economist finds his historic foundation. Under feudal régime the manor was the economic unit. The history of the township and the borough is the political and social product of the economic interests involved in the life of the manor and its associated institutions. Professor Maitland has utilized the incident of the apportionment of the waste lands to bring out the customs of the manor, the relation of lord and tenant, and of township and borough. In this the economic necessities, such as local production, market, the development of the corporation and other forms of broadening industrial co-operation, are given emphasis. A proper understanding of economic principles, of the evolution from an economy of barter and exchange in kind to a "money economy," of the advantages of differentiation of industry and broader co-operation, cannot be had without the broader view given by investigation of this kind.

F. A. C.